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The Navigator

Waukesha County Veterans' Services

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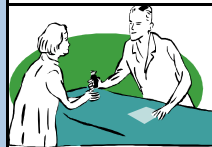
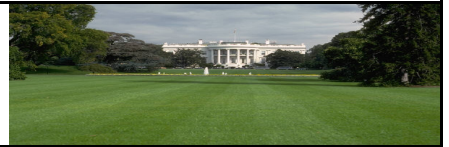
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FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL BENEFITS UPDATE

NEWS UPDATE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS



VA Prescription Co-Pays to Increase by \$1—November 16, 2005

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.opa.pressrel/>

WASHINGTON—Co-payments for outpatient medicines prescribed through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities will rise by \$1, according to an announcement today by VA. The \$1 increase for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs will take effect on January 1, 2006, the first change in VA prescription drug co-payments in four years.

"Through sound management practices, efficient pharmacy operations and price negotiations that put veterans first, VA has been able to contain prescription drug costs," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, noting that co-payments paid by veterans will still be lower than similar expenses in the private sector.

The increase to \$8 from \$7 for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs is required by federal law, which bases VA's co-payments for outpatient prescriptions on increases in the Medical Consumer Price Index.

The \$1 increase will not affect veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a 50 percent or greater disability. Also known as "Priority Group" veterans, these patients will see no change in their current prescription drug benefit, Nicholson said.

Other veterans with less pronounced service-connected ailments "those classified as Priority Groups 2 through 6" will see their prescription drug co-pays rise by

\$1, but their annual out-of-pocket expenses for VA medicine will remain capped. The new cap will rise to \$960 per year, up \$120 from the previous level. This means veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will pay no more than \$960 annually for VA outpatient medicine.

Veterans who have no injury or illness related in any way to their prior military service "referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8" will also see their co-payments increase, but there is no cap on annual payments for outpatient medicine.

Not all prescription drugs will be subject to the \$1 increase. Outpatient medications not subject to co-payments include:

- ◆ Medication for treatment of a service-connected disability;
- ◆ Medication for a veteran who has a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;
- ◆ Medication for a veteran disabled by 50 percent or more for un-employability;
- ◆ Medication for a veteran whose annual income does not exceed the amount of VA pensions;
- ◆ Medications for health problems that may be linked to Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans, to radiation exposure, to undiagnosed illnesses of Persian War veterans, or for new veterans within two years of discharge after serving in a combat theater.

COMMENTARY CORNER By: John L. Margowski, Director

We have a new Web Page. It is located at www.waukeshacounty.gov/veterans. It contains some useful tools for all veterans and their families and for veteran organizations.

Visit our new webpage and learn about "*Hot Issues*", our "*Calendar of Events*", "*Directory of Related Links*" and of course our "*Newsletter*", past and current issues.

Send us your events or functions, meeting dates, "Friday Night Fish Fries", Bowling Tournaments, or Fund Raisers; anything that would benefit your organization and make the public aware of and even attend. This is a great way for organizations to get the word out!

We also have space available for local articles of interest. You may send us a write up about your event and we can place it in our newsletter and on our web page. Just remember, the news letter comes out approximately every three to four months, so give us plenty of lead time on the event if you wish to have it placed in the newsletter.

There are two articles in this newsletter regarding PTSD. One article advises that the VA is canceling its re-

view of the 72,000 PTSD cases nationally because after a VA review it was found that most of the problems with the cases were created on the part of the VA because they did not develop the case properly or contained other administrative errors.

In the next breath, with no public announcement on the part of the VA, they now will have the Institute of Medicine conduct a two phase study of PTSD cases. One study will deal with the scientific and medical literature related to PTSD and how accurate VA screening instruments are. The second study will be related to the treatment and prognosis of individuals with PTSD. This second study will also review the criteria used by the VA in determining the severity levels and compensation rates for PTSD.

At the same time the Veterans' Disability Commission is looking at all aspects of VA compensation and veterans disabilities. They will be conducting hearings throughout the United States and their report is due next November. I suggest that because of the cost, the current administration, Congress and the VA are looking at a total revamping of VA compensation, and not in favor of the veteran.

There have been many changes in Federal and State veterans benefits recently. If you would like to receive an update, I am available to attend your organizational meeting to go over all the recent changes in your benefits. I would ask that you contact me in advance with a couple alternative dates so we can schedule a presentation. I also make presentations to other civic

and fraternal groups who may have veterans in their membership.

Our new County Executive, Daniel P. Vrakas, will be attending the Legislative Salute which is on February 21, 2006 at Monona Terrace in Madison. The start time for the event is 4:00 P.M. There are other meetings at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) in Madison prior to the Legislative Salute. WDVA's Board will meet on Wednesday, February 22nd at 9:00 A.M. at the Department. The Council On Veterans Programs meets at the same location at 8:00 A.M. prior to the Board meeting.

For those of you who are travelers and visit the DC area either for business or recreation I highly recommend that you make a visit to the Malone House on the grounds of Walter Reed Hospital in Silver Spring, MD. The Malone House is where soldiers injured in Iraqi and Afghanistan are housed. They have rehabilitated from their injuries enough to enable them to receive guests and to out into the community for dinner, entertainment, shopping etc. while they are rehabilitating.

I was fortunate enough to be able to visit this month. I found the attitude and morale of these soldiers to be very high and they were very proud to have served this great country. They commented many times on the Iraqi people and how glad they were that we were fighting to give them the same freedoms so many in this country take for granted. If the press wants a great news story these American heroes are it.



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If you have any questions or comments about the contents of the newsletter, please contact Waukesha County Veterans' Service Office at 262-548-7732.

No Across-the-Board Review of PTSD Cases—Secretary Nicholson

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov>

WASHINGTON (Nov. 10, 2005) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will not review the files of 72,000 veterans currently receiving disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, the Department's secretary announced today.

On May 19, 2005, VA's Inspector General reported on an examination of the files of a sample of 2,100 randomly selected veterans with disability ratings for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The IG cited insufficient documentation in the files and a dramatic increase in veterans filing for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder since 1999.

"We have now just completed our own careful review of those 2,100 files cited in the IG's report,"

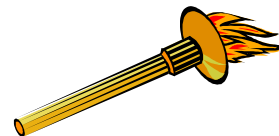
said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "The problems with these files appear to be administrative in nature, such as missing documents, and not fraud."

"In the absence of evidence of fraud, we're not going to put our veterans through the anxiety of a widespread review of their disability claims," Nicholson said. "Instead, we're going to improve our training for VA personnel who handle disability claims and toughen administrative oversight."

"Not all combat wounds are caused by bullets and shrapnel," Nicholson added. "We have a commitment to ensure veterans with PTSD receive compassionate, world-class health care and appropriate disability compensation determinations."

VA to Partner with U.S. Olympic Committee to Qualify Disabled Veterans for Paralympics

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov>



WASHINGTON (Nov. 17, 2005) - Disabled veteran athletes can now set their sights even higher and become eligible to compete in some of the nation's premiere athletic venues thanks to an agreement between the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"This is a tremendous opportunity for America's disabled veterans to excel and compete in elite level athletic competition," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "The agreement between VA and the U.S. Olympic Committee will further inspire disabled veteran athletes to reach their fullest potential in sports competition."

Under the terms of the agreement signed today, participants in VA's National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic will now be able to qualify for positions on the prestigious U.S. Paralympic Team and the U.S. Paralympic National Teams.

The Memorandum of Understanding between VA and the Olympic Committee means the department's marquee sporting events for disabled veterans can now serve as a pipeline in providing competitors for American Paralympic teams engaged in national and international competition.

"The United States Olympic Committee is honored to have the opportunity to serve those who have given selflessly and courageously to our country as members of the Armed Forces," said USOC Chief Executive Officer Jim Scherr. "The Paralympic movement began after World War II as a way to assist in the rehabilitation of injured military personnel. This new partnership between the USOC and VA will ensure that these efforts continue, and will provide new opportunities for our veterans."

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, CO., U.S. Paralympics is a division of the USOC and was

formed in May 2001 with the goal of enhancing programs, obtaining funding and providing competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities to participate in Paralympic sports. Its mission is to be the world leader in the Paralympic movement and to promote excellence in the lives of all people with physical disabilities.

The VA Winter Sports Clinic is co-sponsored by VA and Disabled American Veterans. It is an annual rehabilitation program open to all U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases, visual impairments, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations or other disabilities, who receive care at any VA health care facility.

VA's Wheelchair Games are presented by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, and are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition after having suffered spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments.

Payments for Traumatic Injuries Begin Under New VA Insurance Program

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.opa/pressrel/>

WASHINGTON (December 20, 2005) - American troops and their families now have more financial security, thanks to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) new Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) program. Prudential Financial Inc., the insurer under the program, began making payments under this new program.

The TSGLI payments, ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000, are made to service members who have suffered certain traumatic injuries while on active duty.

The new insurance program became effective December 1, 2005, and is designed to provide financial help to military families through extended periods of medical care and healing. Benefits are also payable retroactively to October 7, 2001 for service members and veterans who suffered certain traumatic injuries while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Injured service members should be able to focus on their

recovery and adjustment back to military or civilian life, as well as spending time with their families," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This new insurance program will help families focus on what's most important without having to worry about financial difficulties."

Officials with VA and the Department of Defense are continually working to identify eligible service members and veterans. Nicholson urged veterans with eligibility questions to visit VA's website at www.insurance.va.gov or to call the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473 for more information.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers one of the largest insurance programs in the United States, providing coverage for active duty and reserve military personnel, veterans, and their families, supervising programs that include more than seven-and-a-half million policies with a face value of more than \$1.1 trillion of insurance benefits.

VA Adds Nearly 2 Million Records to Online Gravesite Locator

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.opa/pressrel/>



WASHINGTON (December 22, 2005) - The burial locations of more than 5 million veterans for whom the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided grave markers are now available on the Internet, as well as the information inscribed on the markers.

Online since April 2004, the nationwide gravesite locator <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/> helps veterans' families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the graves of veterans.

VA recently added 1.9 million records for veterans buried primarily in private cemeteries to its database. The gravesite locator previously carried records on 3 million veterans buried in VA national cemeteries since the Civil War, and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

"The expansion of this innovative program continues VA's commitment to using Internet technology to fulfill the important mission of memorializing our nation's veterans," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "By adding records to our online database, VA also helps families research their genealogy and ensures that future generations of Americans will be able to honor these veterans for their service."

The new records date from January 1997, the earliest time for which electronic records exist. The information comes from applications made for these veterans' headstones or markers. Beyond the 5 million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day.

Last year, VA furnished nearly 369,000 inscribed headstones and

markers for veterans' graves worldwide.

Internet users only need to provide the last name of the deceased veteran or dependent. Typically, the information available includes name, birth and death dates, rank, branch of service and the address and phone number of the cemetery.

Veterans whose discharges are other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery, regardless of where they live. No advance reservations are made. VA provides perpetual care, as well as a headstone or marker, a burial flag and a memorial certificate to survivors.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from a VA Web site at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.



VA, ABC Radio Networks Partner on Outreach to Veterans

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.opa/pressrel/>

WASHINGTON (September 29, 2005) - Officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and ABC Radio Networks today announced a partnership designed to enhance VA's outreach to America's nearly 25 million veterans through a public service campaign, a special global broadcast saluting veterans and participation in key VA events.

Under the relationship, ABC Radio Networks and American Country Countdown with Bob Kingsley will air a series of public service announcements detailing benefits available to veterans.

In addition, on November 11, 2005, "Bob Kingsley Salutes America's Veterans" will be broadcast on the ABC Radio Networks. The program will feature interviews with and historical pieces narrated by some of country music's biggest names, including Faith Hill, Toby Keith, Trace Adkins, Brooks & Dunn and Trisha Yearwood, among many others. It also includes information on veterans' benefits, and interview segments with the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"As part of VA's 75th anniversary, we are taking our message to the airwaves," said Nicholson. "Radio plays a key role in our outreach to veterans, and I'm delighted that ABC Radio Networks and Bob Kingsley, our honorary chairmen for this campaign, have joined forces with VA in our efforts to better inform veterans of their entitlements."

Nicholson also announced that Kingsley will play a key role in the Department's Veterans Day observance in November. "I am pleased that Bob Kingsley will serve as

Master of Ceremonies for the 2005 Veterans Day commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 2005."

"ABC Radio Networks is proud to support the Department of Veterans Affairs in its ongoing effort to support the men and women of our armed forces," said John McConnell, Senior Vice President of Programming, ABC Radio Networks. "We are committed to serving America's veterans through this program with VA."

"Having served as a broadcaster in the U.S. Air Force with American Forces Radio, it is my privilege to be working with VA and ABC Radio Networks as part of this program," said Bob Kingsley, host and producer of American Country Countdown. "Country music is one of the most effective ways to reach our veterans and service men and women. I am honored to be a part of VA's efforts to get the word out to veterans."

The agreement announced today by Nicholson and ABC Radio representatives enables VA to work with private industry, in addition to its other outreach activities, to inform veterans of the entitlements they have earned as mandated by Congress.

As part of the campaign, VA has also created The Secretary's Award for Outstanding Service to American Veterans. The award will be presented in early 2006. Details will be announced in late 2005 or early 2006.

VA Announces New Survivor Benefits Web Site

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov>



WASHINGTON (September 13, 2005) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has created a new Internet Web site for the surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died on active duty and for the survivors and dependents of veterans who died after leaving the military.

"One of VA's basic missions is to

care for the survivors of veterans and military members," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "By harnessing the power of the Internet, we can provide them with the latest information about benefits in a clear, readable format."

The Web site is organized into two broad categories - death in service and death after service. It provides visitors with information about a wide range of benefits for the sur-

living spouse, dependent children, and dependent parents of deceased veterans and active-duty personnel.

The site also has information from -- and links to -- other federal agencies and organizations that offer benefits and services to survivors and dependents.

The new website can be found at www.vba.va.gov/survivors or by clicking the "Survivors Benefits" button on the left panel of <http://www.vba.va.gov/>.



The Sunday Times—Nov. 6, 2005

Iraq Battle Stress Worse than WWII—By: Michael Smith



SENIOR army doctors have warned that troops in Iraq are suffering levels of battle stress not experienced since the second world war because of fears that if they shoot an insurgent, they will end up in court.

The two senior Royal Army Medical Corps officers, one of whom is a psychologist, have recently returned from Basra, where they said they counseled young soldiers who feared a military police investigation as much as they did the insurgents.

The revelations follow the collapse last week of the court martial of seven paratroopers accused of murdering an Iraqi who died near al-Amarah just after the war and amid signs of a dramatic drop in morale among frontline infantry soldiers.

The doctors' warnings came in post-operational reports submitted by senior officers to their formation commanders after serving in a battle zone. They are exceptional because of their content.

One source said: "There doesn't appear to be any overt consideration or understanding of the pressures that our soldiers are under."

"The unpopularity of the war at home and a belief that firing their rifles in virtually any circumstances is likely to see them end up in court are sapping morale."

One corporal said that troops arriving in Basra were confronted by warnings from the Royal Military Police. "They make it clear that any and every incident will be investigated. It is also made clear that if you shoot someone, you will face an inquiry that could take up to a year."

"The faces of the young lads straight out of training drop as the fear of being investigated strikes home and many ask whose side the RMP are on."

Although the levels of fighting in Iraq are nowhere near those of some of the bloodiest battles of the second world war, such as the Battle of the Bulge or Kohima, the much more complex situation that the British troops face is pushing up stress levels just as far.

The combination of knowing that death might come at any time from a roadside bomb and that shooting back at Iraqis who attack them might result in their being court-martialed is putting immense pressure on young soldiers.

The doctors described morale in some units as very low

with soldiers cynically suggesting they needed a solicitor with them before they shot back at any Iraqi who attacked them.

Many frontline infantry soldiers were in survival mode and had the impression that the Ministry of Defense (MoD) is not supporting them and nobody in the UK cares about what is happening in Iraq, the officers said.

This weekend senior MoD officials sought to counter the damage done to morale after the collapse of the court martial by revealing that John Reid, the defense secretary, had ordered an urgent review of whether the MoD is fulfilling its duty of care to soldiers facing legal action.

There are signs that it is already too late, with more than 5,370 infantry soldiers buying themselves out of the army in the past three years rather than be posted back to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Divorce rates have soared. The wives of soldiers who return from Iraq complain that their husbands are suffering from exhaustion and stress but refuse to seek medical help for fear that it will blight their promotion prospects.

The wife of one officer based in Germany told friends he was "an aggressive wreck" after returning from Iraq, shouting at the children and suffering from what she thought was a nervous disorder. He declined medical help and a month after returning from Basra was sent to Kabul.

Not least among the concerns within the army is the fact that cases are taking so long to come to court martial. Three members of the Irish Guards and a Coldstream Guard who stand accused of the manslaughter of an Iraqi who allegedly drowned in a canal in May 2003 will not stand trial until May next year.

Corporal Scott Evans, 32, the most senior of the paratroopers acquitted last week, said that they felt betrayed by the army: "We've been badly hung out to dry."

"The army is your family, isn't it? You expect your family to look after you through thick and thin, but they betrayed us. It seems that in the army's eyes you are guilty until proven innocent."

One army officer said Evans was "just summing up what everybody feels. No one seems to care. We feel like we've lost public sympathy because of all these allegations"

New Members Appointed to Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

The following information was found on the internet <http://dva.state.wi.us>

WASHINGTON (Nov. 9, 2005) - The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has announced the appointment of four new members to the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, an expert panel that advises him on issues involving minority veterans.

"This advisory committee contributes to the success of VA programs affecting minority veterans," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "It helps VA strengthen health care, benefits, rehabilitation, outreach and other programs for minority veterans."

Chartered on January 30, 1995, the committee makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes. The committee members are appointed to one-, two-, or three-year terms.

The new committee members include retired Army Maj. Gen. Harvey D. Williams from Maryland; retired Army Col. Reginald Malebranche from Virginia; retired Navy Cmdr. Kerwin E. Miller from Washington, D.C.; and U.S. Army veteran Cathleen Wiblemo from Virginia.

There are approximately 4.5 million minority veterans in the United States and its territories. They make up 18.7 percent of the total veteran population.

VA has minority veterans program coordinators at each VA medical center, regional office and national cemetery to assist minority veterans with health and benefits issues.

Membership

VA Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

- ♦ Carson Ross (Chair), African-American, Blue Springs, MO. Vietnam veteran, currently serves as the vice chair, Missouri Veterans Commission.
- ♦ Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos, Hispanic-American, Olympia, WA. A retired Army command sergeant major, assistant director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ♦ Samuel Calderon, Hispanic-American, Bucaramanga, Columbia. A retired Army colonel, retired in July 2003 from the Department of Commerce as Deputy Director for Budget.
- ♦ Jefferson John D., African-American, Silver Spring, MD. A Vietnam-era Army veteran, currently working as an African-American outreach coordinator for the Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.
- ♦ James H. Mukoyama, Jr., Japanese-American, Glenview, IL. A retired Army reserve major general, Vietnam veteran, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Regal Discount Securities.
- ♦ Harvey D. Williams, African-American, Germantown, MD. A retired Army major general, former executive vice or chief operating officer of four companies.
- ♦ Reginald Malebranche, Haitian, Alexandria, VA. A retired Army colonel, has held several leadership positions in private and federal industry.
- ♦ Lawrence A. Bastian, Sr., U.S. Virgin Islands. A retired Army first sergeant, has held several key positions in his homeland in providing services to veterans.
- ♦ Diego E. Hernández, Puerto Rican, Miami, FL. A retired Navy vice admiral, Vietnam veteran, currently serves as management consultant to private and public companies.
- ♦ Frank A. Cordero, American Indian-Squamish Nation, Bellingham, Wash. A Vietnam veteran Marine; currently serving as a tribal veteran representative and sits on several committees in Washington.
- ♦ Cathleen C. Wiblemo, Caucasian, Annandale, VA. A veteran of the U.S. Army; currently working as the deputy director of health care at the American Legion National Headquarters.
- ♦ Kerwin E. Miller, African-American, Washington, D.C. A retired Navy commander, currently director of the District of Columbia Office of Veterans Affairs.

VA's Online RX Refill Service the Right Prescription for Vets

Secretary Nicholson: Service is "Fast, Easy and Secure"

The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/news>



WASHINGTON (Nov. 23, 2005) - Tens of thousands of veterans are now receiving their prescription drug refills from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with greater convenience, speed and security, thanks to a new service available to veterans over the Internet.

More than 70,000 prescriptions have been refilled using the latest service added to VA's "MyHealtheVet," the personal online health record system designed for veterans in the VA health care system. The prescription refill service began on Aug. 31.

"VA's MyHealtheVet prescription refill service is proving to be extremely successful in providing America's veterans with fast, easy and secure access to their important medications," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Given the overwhelmingly positive response VA has received to this initiative from our veterans, we anticipate that thousands more veterans will choose to take advantage of this convenient service."

The secure online prescription refill service has quickly emerged as one of the more popular features in the MyHealtheVet system, which connects with VA's widely respected electronic records system.

When a veteran orders a prescription refill, the request is routed to VA's computer system to be filled by one of the department's outpatient mail pharmacies. The refill is then sent directly to the veteran, eliminating the need for a trip to the pharmacy and a wait in line.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2005, MyHealtheVet marked its second anniversary by adding three new health records that veterans can keep in a secure electronic environment and make available to VA health professionals nationwide - blood oxygen levels taken from a pulse oximeter, daily food intake in the Food Journal, and physical activity and exercise in the Activity Journal.

By last month, more than 100,000 veterans had signed up to use MyHealtheVet, which is located on VA's Web site at www.myhealth.va.gov.

Among the services available to veterans, their families and VA care providers through the online personal record are the ability to track health conditions - entering readings such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels - and to record medications, allergies, military health history, medical events and tests.

Veterans can also include personal information, such as emergency contacts, names of medical providers and health insurance information. They can access health information on the Internet from VA, MedlinePlus from the National Library of Medicine, and Healthwise, a commercial health education library.

Future expansion of MyHealtheVet will allow VA patients to view appointments and co-payment balances, access portions of their medical records, and give access to their records to doctors, family members and others.

Attention Veterans! **FRAUD WARNING!**

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.opa.pressrel/>

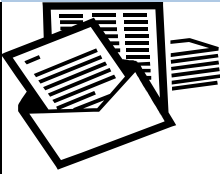
Veterans around the country are reporting that they are getting calls from a company identifying itself as the "Patient Care Group."

This company is claiming that VA prescriptions are now being dispensed through them and that if veterans want to continue to properly receive their medications, they must provide a credit card number.

VA has **NOT changed the process of receiving and dispensing prescriptions.**

**DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER
TO ANYONE WHO CALLS YOU!**

Please contact your local VA Medical Center if you have questions about VA prescriptions or services.



Under Secretary for Health's Information Letter Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Medicare Part D) Pharmacy Benefits

The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/news>

1. The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) added a new prescription drug program to Medicare. Starting January 1, 2006, prescription drug coverage will be available to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs). All PDPs provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium. Individuals with Medicare coverage can enroll in a Medicare PDP from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. After that, an annual enrollment period will be available each year, from November 15 through December 31, beginning in 2006. NOTE: Some individuals who enroll "late" may be subject to a "late enrollment penalty."
2. Most entities that currently provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries are required to disclose whether the entity's coverage is "creditable prescription drug coverage." Creditable coverage encompasses any of several cited prescription drug benefits (including prescription drug benefits provided as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefit) provided the actuarial value of the coverage equals or exceeds the actuarial value of defined Medicare standard prescription drug coverage.
3. The prescription drug benefit provided as part of VA health care benefit meets or exceeds Medicare criteria. This means that VA prescription drug coverage is at least as good as the Medicare Part D coverage and provides "creditable coverage" for purposes of Medicare.
4. Under most circumstances, there is no added value for VA health care enrollees to purchase Medicare prescription drug coverage. The exception to this general rule may be for those veterans who wish to have additional prescription access options and who have the resources to pay the additional costs associated with Medicare's Part D coverage. Because VA is creditable coverage for its health care enrollees, veterans who choose not to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan before May 15, 2006, do not have to pay the late enrollment penalty if they enroll in a Medicare drug plan during a later enrollment period.
5. If a veteran chooses to withdraw from VA health care or if VA takes some action that causes a veteran to lose VA coverage (e.g., VA makes an enrollment decision that would further restrict access to certain Priority Groups), affected veterans can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, without incurring the late enrollment penalty, within 62 days of the end of VA coverage. NOTE: If a veteran decides to withdraw from VA health care, the veteran may not be able to reenroll at a later date, dependent on the current or a subsequent VA enrollment decision.
6. A veteran who is, or who becomes, a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency (for example, a state veterans home, a state mental institution, a jail, or a corrections facility), may not have creditable coverage from VA while in that institution. Veterans who are unsure whether this may apply to them need to contact the institution where they reside, the VA Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or their local VA medical facility. Further information also can be obtained at www.va.gov.
7. Veterans need to remember that in addition to prescription drugs, VA's Medical Benefits Package provides a full-range of health care benefits. Veterans are still be eligible to receive all current health and prescription drug benefits if they choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Veterans do not have to choose between VA coverage and a Medicare prescription drug plan; they may participate in either or both.
8. For more information on Medicare Part D, visit the Medicare Web sites at www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships or www.medicare.gov, or call its 24-hour toll-free number at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-888-633-4227).
9. Questions may be directed to The Chief Business Office at (202) 254-0406.

Higher Limits Extended in VA Home Loan Program

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.opa/pressrel/>

WASHINGTON (Dec. 29, 2005) - America's veterans and their families now have a greater chance to make their dreams of home ownership a reality, thanks to an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guaranty limit.

Effective January 1, 2006, changes in the loan guaranty limits will mean veterans are able to get no-down payment loans up to \$417,000. The previous ceiling was \$359,650.

"For more than 60 years, VA has assisted our veterans to become home owners," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This increase is another example of our commitment to ensure VA benefits keep pace with the needs of our veterans in

today's housing market."

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 tied increases in the VA guaranty to increases in the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's conforming loan limit. When this limit increases, VA guaranty limits also go up, allowing VA to keep pace with rising home values.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, service members and reservists. With VA guaranteeing a portion of the loan, veterans can receive a competitive interest rate without making a down payment, making it easier to buy a home.



VA Scrubs Review of Disability Claims, But Orders Another Study of PTSD

The following information was taken from the DAV Magazine January/February 2006

The VA has decided not to review the files of 72,000 veterans currently receiving disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and will instead focus on improved training for claims workers. (see the November/December 2005 DAV Magazine.)

"The VA's decision is welcome news to veterans who deserve timely and quality decisions on their claims," said National Service Director Randy Reese. "The DAV had expressed concerns that reviewing those thousands of claims would put additional strain on the VA disability compensation system which still has a backlog of nearly half a million claims."

But just days after the Nov. 10 announcement that the VA would cancel the claims review, it was revealed that Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson had asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct a two pronged examination of PTSD.

The VA made no formal announcement about the IOM study, and the first word of it came from a Nov. 16

news release issued by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Larry Craig (R-Idaho).

According to the VA, an IOM committee will review the scientific and medical literature related to the assessment of PTSD and how accurate the current screening instruments are. Another IOM committee will study issues related to treatment and prognosis of individuals with PTSD. The second panel also will review the criteria used by the VA in determining the severity levels and compensation rates for PTSD.

The first committee will take six months to complete its tasks. The second committee, whose meetings will be open to the public and will accept public input, will take one year to complete its work. Final written reports will be published at the end of the study period for each of the two tasks.

"This latest move by the VA to have the IOM examine PTSD could have some serious implications for the disability rating system," said Reese.

"It also raises questions about our government's policies and attitudes toward veterans suffering from PTSD."

Last May, the VA's Inspector General found inconsistencies in the way PTSD claims were decided, including cases that were approved though they lacked sufficient documentation in the files. The report also noted a significant increase in veterans filing for disability compensation for PTSD since 1999. Those findings and concerns about potential fraud prompted the VA to order the massive review of PTSD claims.

However, a thorough review of some 2,100 PTSD claims cited in the Inspector General's initial study showed problems with those files "appear to be administrative in nature such as missing documents, and not fraud," according to Secretary Nicholson.

"In the absence of evidence of fraud, we're not going to put our veterans

(Continued on page 11 - PTSD Claims)

House Passes \$70 Billion in VA Funding for FY 2006

The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/news>



Washington, D.C. - Today, the House passed H.R. 2528, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which appropriates \$70.038 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Most notably, over the last two years, funding for Veterans medical care has increased by 18%. For the first time ever, this bill allocates \$2.2 billion solely for mental healthcare and doubles funding for mental health research.

"This increase in VA funding for 2006 will ensure a quality veterans healthcare system and help us improve the accuracy and responsiveness of the veterans' benefits system," said Chairman Steve Buyer.

Buyer went on to note that, "this appropriations bill will improve VA IT programs by providing VA with a separate IT systems account, bringing greater accountability to their IT spending." The bill includes recommendations that the VA initiate a new pilot program to provide a comprehensive restructuring of the complete revenue collections cycle and states that the VA provide quarterly progress reports to the Committees on Appropriations in both Houses of Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FUNDING:

\$36.995 billion mandatory

\$31.818 billion discretionary

\$1.225 billion contingent emergency funding for medical services

\$70.038 billion TOTAL VA

*Including the recently passed COLA, total VA funding would be brought up to \$70.249 billion.

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care and Benefits:

Veterans Medical Services are funded at \$22.5 billion, \$575 million above the President's budget request and \$1.7 billion above FY05. VA also has available an additional \$1.14 billion in available funding from FY 05 for carry over into the FY 06 funds.

Mental Health Services - for the first time ever, \$2.2 billion is fenced for specialty mental health care and the bill doubles funding for mental health research.

This bill contains a new "Prosthetics and Integrative Health Care Initiative" to treat returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan who have lost limbs in combat. \$412 million will provide for medical and prosthetic research, which is \$19 million over the budget request.

For construction programs, the bill recommends the budget request levels of \$607 million for major construction and \$199 million for minor construction. Of these funds, \$532 million of major construction and \$155 million of minor construction are designated for the "Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services" or CARES program.

Veteran's Benefits are increased \$1.9 billion over last year.

Other highlights include:

\$1.2 billion for VA IT and IT restructuring.

An additional \$40 million for VBA operation expenses to prevent staff reductions in processing disability claims benefits.

\$85 million for state extended care facilities.

Creates 3 "Centers of Excellence" for Mental Health/PTSD medical care.

Requires VA to brief Congress on a quarterly basis on the status of their financial situation.

Requires the VA to maintain the current system of processing home monitoring devices for diabetes patients.

Fully funds all mental health care and PTSD requirements.

The agreement encourages the VA to provide full assistance to veterans in rural areas through information campaigns and distribution of VA benefits handbooks.

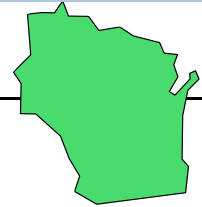
(PTSD Claims—Continued from page 10)

through the anxiety of a wide-spread review of their disability claims," Nicholson said. "Instead, we're going to improve our training for VA personnel who handle disability claims and toughen administrative oversight."

"The VA's announcement that it will address the training and accountability problems in the benefits delivery system is a positive step," said Reese. "The DAV welcomes the opportunity to work with the VA to ensure the accuracy and

timeliness of claims decisions. However, the DAV also will keep a close watch on the Institute of Medicine review and will continue to advocate for fair and just compensation and treatment for veterans with service-connected disabilities related to PTSD".

NEWS UPDATE FOR STATE BENEFITS



Legislature Amends Veterans Property Tax Credit

The following information was received from www.wisgov.state.wi.us

(MADISON) - The Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly passed 2005 Senate bill 347 on November 1, 2005, amending the law for the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit, which provides property tax relief to Wisconsin's elderly, most severely service-disabled military veterans.

"We greatly appreciate the nearly unanimous efforts of the legislature and its leadership in swiftly passing these needed measures," said Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John A. Scocos.

The bill provides a fix to clarify the rules for married veterans claiming the property tax credit, whether filing separately or jointly. The bill ensures that elderly, totally disabled eligible veterans will receive the full 100% property tax credit, which was the original intent of the measure to aid Wisconsin's disabled veterans. Current law would have treated eligible married veterans differently than eligible unmarried veterans. Under the bill, if an eligible veteran and spouse file separate tax returns, each spouse may claim a percentage of the credit based on ownership interest.

The Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses

Property Tax Credit provides a refundable state income tax credit for certain veterans and surviving spouses equal to the amount of property taxes paid. Veterans eligible for the credit must have been a Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into active duty, have a federal VA combined service-connected disability rating of 100%, and be age 65 or older. The credit is also extended to an eligible veteran's unremarried surviving spouse. Also eligible for the credit are the unremarried surviving spouses of Wisconsin veterans who die in the line of duty, including those killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To claim the credit, eligibility must be established with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and the WDVA certification must be included when filing the state income tax forms with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Eligible veterans and surviving spouses will receive the credit even if they do not have any income tax liability.

For additional information on the credit, visit the WDVA web site, at www.dva.state.wi.us, or call 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).

Wisconsin Veterans Seeking Education Grant Must File Pre-Application

The following information was received from www.wisgov.state.wi.us

(MADISON) -- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) announces that effective with courses beginning January 1, 2006, veterans seeking a Veterans Education Grant (VetEd) must submit a Pre-Application no later than 30 days after the beginning of the academic period. The VetEd program reimburses tuition and some fees at approved institutions of higher learning.

The Pre-Application is available on the WDVA web site at <https://services.dva.state.wi.us/veteran>.

To complete the Pre-Application, veterans will be asked to estimate the amount for which the veteran

will seek reimbursement. WDVA will use the estimates to calculate the amount needed to cover all grants applications at semester's end. Depending on the estimated size, the department may be required to adjust the percentage of reimbursement. The current percentage of reimbursement is 100% of tuition and fees at the UW-Madison rate per credit.

To receive a VetEd reimbursement grant, veterans must have established eligibility for state veterans' benefits with WDVA. This process can be initiated through their local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO). Veterans need to verify

military service, normally with a copy of their DD-214 (discharge paper), and meet state residency requirements.

In addition to VetEd, WDVA offers other services and benefits to eligible veterans including Personal and Mortgage Loans. Veterans may apply online for Personal Loans and Certificates of Eligibility for Primary Mortgage Loans.

For more details on the VetEd program, call 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387), visit the WDVA web site at , or contact a local County Veterans Service Officer.



Veterans Affairs Announces Unified Fundraising Effort for New Handicapped-Accessible Buses

The following information was received from www.wisgov.state.wi.us

(MADISON) -- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs announces a new fundraising effort to raise money for buses at state veterans homes.

"Wisconsin veterans have a long and proud tradition of taking care of their own," stated John A. Scocos, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. "The veterans community has repeatedly told me they are ready and willing to lead the way in our quest for three new handicapped-accessible buses for our Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove."

The goal for the unified fundraising effort is \$350,000. Donors will receive a letter acknowledging their donation and their names will be included on a special public display located at each facility. Donations will be set aside in a special fund used solely for the purpose of purchasing these three buses.

"While we know the veterans organizations will lead the charge in this effort, we also hope to garner the support of the many civic and fraternal organizations, foundations, and private individuals throughout Wisconsin, and beyond, who realize the value of this important project," said Scocos. "Wisconsin is keenly aware of the sacrifices made by our veterans. With the success of this effort, the veterans who live in our homes at King and Union Grove will be able to enjoy many off-grounds trips to attend events outside their

facilities, including baseball games, stock car races, visits to veterans clubs, meal outings, bingo games, fall color tours, museums and many other activities."

Scocos has named Rich Calcut as chairman of the WDVA Unified Fundraising Effort. Calcut, an Air Force veteran and a 21-year employee at the King Home, serves as the Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. Secretary Scocos said, "Rich was instrumental in the WDVA fundraising efforts for the 'King Koach' back in 1992. With his experience in fundraising and working with so many organizations over the years, we are confident of a positive outcome for our fundraising efforts."

Donations are already starting to come in. Contributions are tax-deductible and checks should be made payable to **WISCONSIN VETERANS HOMES BUS FUND**. Donations and information regarding potential donors should be mailed to:

Rich Calcut - Public Information Officer
Wisconsin Veterans Home - King
N2665 County Road QQ
King, Wisconsin 54946
(715) 258-4247



Low Interest Fixed Rate Personal Loans Available

The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/news>

If you are a Wisconsin Veteran you can apply now for a low interest, fixed rate loan with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). We offer Home Equity and Personal Loans that can be used for any purpose.

Consider the advantage of taking out a Personal Loan with WDVA.

Home Equity Personal Loan:

- ◆ Borrow up to \$25,000 for any purpose
- ◆ Fixed Rates as low as 5%
- ◆ Terms of 5 to 10 years
- ◆ Interest may be tax deductible
- ◆ No annual fees, points or prepayment penalties

Personal Loan

- ◆ Borrow up to \$5,000 for any purpose
- ◆ Fixed 6% interest rate
- ◆ 5 year term
- ◆ Guarantor required

It's easy to apply, just visit us at www.dva.state.wi.us to fill out our On-Line Application, or contact your local County Veterans Service Office. If you have questions regarding our loan programs you can call us toll free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).



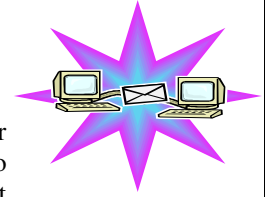
WDVA Loan Balance Information Now Available

On-Line The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/bulletin #722>

WDVA has implemented a new feature, "eStatus" for viewing loan information on-line. The eStatus feature allows a veteran with PLP, HILP, CLP, Economic Assistance and Second Mortgage loans serviced by WDVA to have on-line access to their payment information, loan balance, payment history and account information.

The eStatus feature is not available for Primary Mortgage Loans serviced by other lending institutions.

The eStatus link is located near the bottom of the loan pages. To access eStatus the veteran must go to the link on the WDVA Web site and then enter their loan account number and Social Security number to set up a user name and password. The veteran will then be able to log in with the user name and password to access their account information.



New Interest Rate of 6.5% for Primary Mortgage Loans

The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/bulletin #725>

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs transmitted today a WDVA Lenders Bulletin, stating that the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs Primary Mortgage Loan Program. This interest rate is effective for all loans received after 4:30 p.m. February 8, 2006.

"Wisconsin GI Bill" Provides Educational Benefits for Veterans and Their Families.

The following information is from www.wisgov.state.wi.us

(MADISON) - Effective with the Fall Semester of the 2005-06 academic year, a new "Wisconsin G.I. Bill" remits half the tuition costs and fees for college education benefits through University of Wisconsin System (UWS) or Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutions for Wisconsin veterans. Dependents of certain veterans who entered active duty as Wisconsin residents may be eligible for 100% of tuition costs to be covered.

The 2005 Wisconsin Act 25, the 2005-2007 Wisconsin Biennial Budget Act that took effect on July 27, 2005 made provision for the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, which stipulates:

- ◆ Eligible Wisconsin veterans who were state residents when they entered active duty may receive 50% tuition waivers to attend any UWS or WTCS institution for up to 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer.
- ◆ Under the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, the qualifying children and the unmarried surviving spouse of a Wisconsin veteran who dies in the line of duty are eligible for a set time period for the waiver of 100% of academic fees (tuition) and segregated fees at a University of Wisconsin System institution or of 100% of program (tuition) and material fees at a Wisconsin Technical College System institution. Dependents of service-connected disabled veterans who have a service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of 30% or greater are also eligible for a waiver of 100% of academic (tuition) and segregated fees at a University of Wisconsin System institution or of 100% of program (tuition) and material fees at a Wisconsin Technical College System institution for a set time period.

- ◆ For the spouse or child of a veteran to be eligible for the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, the veteran must have met certain statutory requirements as a veteran, must have been a Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into active military duty, and must have been a Wisconsin resident at the time of death or disability determination. The veteran must either have established eligibility for Wisconsin veterans benefits previously or must do so at the time of application for Wisconsin G.I. Bill benefits. If the veteran is deceased, the applicant may apply on the veteran's behalf.
- ◆ Spouses are eligible for ten years following the date of the line-of-duty death or the service-connected disability rating and are not required to study full-time. Children are eligible at age 18 and through age 25, must be Wisconsin residents, and must be full-time students.

The Wisconsin G.I. Bill has no set income limits, no delimiting time periods following military service during which the benefits must be used, and no limits on the level of education pursued (e.g., vocational, undergraduate, graduate, and professional). Applicants must apply for the remission at the eligible institution. They can continue to simultaneously receive any federal VA Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to which they may be entitled.

For additional eligibility requirements and application information, see the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs WDVA B0105 (application/instructions booklet) on the department web site at www.dva.state.wi.us.



Tax Filers Can Now Donate to the Veterans Trust Fund



The following information is from www.wisgov.state.wi.us

(MADISON) — Starting this year, Wisconsin taxpayers can now show their support for Wisconsin's veterans and military families in a new way. For the first time, this year's Wisconsin state income tax forms feature a designated donation line for the state's Veterans Trust Fund on both the individual and corporate tax forms.

"We hope that tax filers will take advantage of this convenient new way to support our state's veterans and military family members," said WDVA Secretary John A. Scocos. "By designating even a few dollars to the Veterans Trust Fund, we can all help aid those who answered their nation's call in its time of need," he said.

In order to donate to the state's Veterans Trust Fund, taxpayers or their tax preparers can designate the amount of the donation on line 37 of 2005 Wisconsin Income Tax Form 1. The

donation line is entitled, "Veterans Trust Fund," and is marked with a distinctive "VETS" logo

For tax filers using Form 1A, the donation line is at Line 30, and on Form WI-Z, the donation line is at Line 17.

For corporate filers, the Veterans Trust Fund donation is on Line 19 of Form 4, and Line 13 of Form 5. For part-year and non-residents, the donation is at Line 63 of Form 1NPR.

Those who miss the tax season from January through April and who still wish to donate to the state's Veterans Trust Fund can send a check or money order to: Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Trust Fund, 30 W. Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843.

Donations to the Veterans Trust Fund are tax-deductible. More information is available on the Internet at www.dva.state.wi.us.

New Exhibit— Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Exhibit Explores Holocaust The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/news>

(MADISON)— A new exhibit, combining key newspaper articles about World War II and drawings of the Jewish experience during the war, will be on display at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum from January 3 to March 10, 2006. The six pieces were created by Madison artist Michael Hecht. Hecht specializes in "knife drawings," where he cuts images into reprinted newspapers and other relevant mediums.

Hecht's ideas for the exhibit stem from his own personal connection to the victims of the Holocaust. "A pivotal and important day for my family and me was

my Bar Mitzvah, the coming of age ceremony where a boy becomes a man. After the ceremony, my father introduced me to the elders. The men shook my hand with their sleeves rolled up, revealing the concentration camp numbers branded on their arms," he said.

The experiences of Hecht's family, friends and neighbors have remained with him, and encouraged him to produce drawings in their memory. His exhibit, titled: "Never Forget: The Knife Drawings of Michael Hecht" will be on display in the front entrance

of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is a free public educational activity of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and is located at 30 W. Mifflin St., across the street from the State Capitol. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (year round) and Sundays (April through September) from noon to 4 p.m. The Museum's Research Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment. For more information **contact Jeff Kollath, at 608-261-0541.**

Driver & Vehicle Licensing for Active Duty Military Personnel

The following information is from <http://dva.state.wi.us/bulletin#724>

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) has recently updated its website concerning special driver and vehicle licensing provisions applicable for active duty military personnel. (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/active-duty.htm>)

Any driver license issued to a person on active military duty does not expire until 30 days after the return to Wisconsin or 90 days after discharge from active duty, whichever is earlier. The service member, a family member, or a friend must contact WISDOT in writing to alert WISDOT that the service member is on active duty, and WISDOT will annotate its records to note that the license will expire 90 days following discharge from active duty.

Active-duty military members are eligible for the pro-ration of registration renewal fees for non-operation. Additionally, upon entering the military, a member may request a refund of the

unused portion of a registration fee.

The military member, a relative, or a friend may complete vehicle registration (license plate renewal). While on leave for up to 30 days a military member may obtain a temporary license plate for any vehicle owned by or designated by the member. The member need not register the vehicle and the temporary plate is issued at no charge.

Information concerning duplicate driver licenses, insurance, suspended or revoked license reinstatement, medical reports, dealer and salesperson licenses, motor carrier fees and reports, and special license plates for active duty military personnel is also addressed on the aforementioned website.

Questions concerning the above information should be directed to WISDOT.

NEWS UPDATE FOR THE LOCAL AREA



A Play Presentation at the University of Wisconsin—Waukesha “In Their Own Words: A Vietnam Chronicle”

The following information was received from Dr. Mark E. Lococo,
Associate Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts—University of Wisconsin-Waukesha



WHERE: Lunt-Fontanne Theatre
University of WI—Waukesha Campus
1500 N. University Dr
Waukesha WI

WHEN:

Friday	March 17th	8:00 P.M.
Saturday	March 18th	8:00 P.M.
Sunday	March 19th	2:00 P.M.
Friday	March 24th	8:00 P.M.
Saturday	March 25th	8:00 P.M.

In Their Own Words: A Vietnam Chronicle is a play based on non-fiction from the Vietnam War. Using oral narratives, essays, letters and memoirs, it tells the story of eight characters (five men and three women) as they deal with the war both in country and at home. In a multi-media production, the play shows a variety of veterans' experiences during the war and culminates with the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC in 1982.

Originally developed by the Walden Theatre Conservatory in New York City, the play has been produced throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, as well as in Chicago and elsewhere in Wisconsin.

ADMISSION: \$8.00—Adults
\$7.00—Senior Citizens & Students

For further information, contact Dr. Mark Lococo at mlococo@uwc.edu. To purchase tickets, contact Diane Dalhoe at (262) 521-5212

Any Month—2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	19	11	12
13	14	15	16	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

VETERANS' CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

FREE Advertisement— for Your Post or Organization

Visit the Waukesha County Veterans Services' Website at:
www.waukeshacounty.gov

Click on the Veterans' Services Web page and you will find the Veterans'
“Calendar of Events”

EXAMPLE OF EVENT TYPES:

Friday Night Fish Fries...Bowling Tournaments...Fund Raisers...

If you have an event or function that you would like to have put into
the calendar or newsletter, contact our office by phone or e-mail at:

Waukesha County Veterans Service Office

500 Riverview Avenue
Waukesha WI 53188
Phone: 262-548-7732
Fax #: 262-896-8588

E-mail address:

jmargowski@waukeshacounty.gov